

Nihonmachi

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日本街



San Francisco's
**NIHON
MACHI**

In the
Western
Addition
Area 2

日本街

Calligraphy: Masae Yamamoto

History

The Japanese-American Community has been a significant part of San Francisco's Western Addition since shortly after the earthquake and fire of 1906.

Their homes and shops have been centered in the Nihonmachi redevelopment area—the four blocks bounded by Bush, Post, Laguna and Webster Streets.

It is this area that will be renewed as the new Nihonmachi—preserving the customs and the commerce and enhancing the culture and the community of Japan Town.

Nihonmachi is appropriately the good neighbor immediately to the north of the Japanese Cultural and Trade Center. There the Peace Pagoda further will symbolize for both developments their cultural and economic ties to Japan.

Participation

The Nihonmachi Community Development Corporation represents the Japanese-American neighborhood in the renewal process with the Redevelopment Agency.

Sale of sites for new buildings will be made through a cooperative arrangement worked out between the Nihonmachi Corporation and the Redevelopment Agency.

More than 80 shareholders belong to the Corporation—and more than 60 per cent of the property owners in the area are members.

Various committees work closely with the Redevelopment Agency on all matters of importance affecting renewal.

Residential

Property owners and tenants have not only been encouraged but given priority to develop residences and live in the Nihonmachi.

Many of the buildings will be rehabilitated to meet modern standards—with their exteriors restored to be consistent with their architectural origins.

Where possible, the restored residences will be grouped to create a special visual environment—as well as an expression of continuity with the past.

Most of these small multi-family units, along with some new single-family town houses, will be concentrated in the two northern blocks.

Commercial

The Nihonmachi program involves a pattern of landscaped areas and walks in an environment of commerce similar to Tokyo's Ginza in variety and activity.

Buchanan Street will be closed to create two major malls. In the block from Post to Sutter, shoppers will walk from store to store, some new, and some rehabilitated.

They will cross a pedestrian bridge above Sutter Street to reach a plaza appropriate to such festivals as Bon Odori, Boys' and Girls' Day, and similar activities.

Japanese trees and plants will set off the new shops and businesses, which will be two stories high and connected by an unusual design of ramps and bridges.

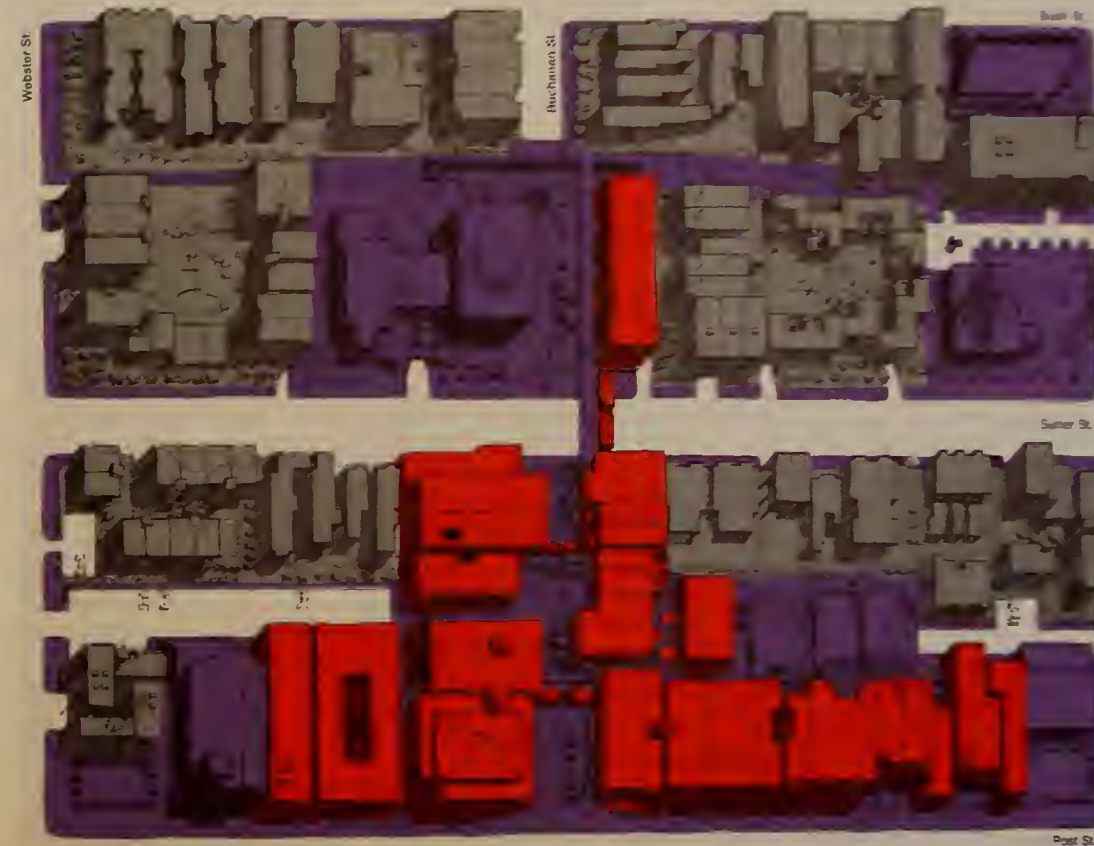
The Community

The traditional sights and sounds and aromas of Japan Town will be retained with the restoration of several restaurants.

In addition, the churches and shrines of several sects will be preserved.




The major new facility will be a community center, on the northwest corner of Buchanan and Sutter.

In the spirit of cooperation that distinguishes the neighborhood, the Nihonmachi Community Development Corporation has designated this site for public use.



Nihonmachi

Western Addition Area 2

-  Public and Institutional
-  Residential
-  Commercial

Architects:
Van Bourg/Nakamura, Berkeley
Rai Y. Okamoto, San Francisco

This drawing illustrates uses, some set and others only under discussion, of rehabilitated buildings and new structures. Approximately one-third of the structures are to be retained

Drawing: Mark Gorrell

San Francisco Redevelopment Agency
Post Office Box 646, San Francisco, California 94101

San Francisco
March 19, 1968

In a few brief years, in an historic
four-block area of San Francisco, there
will blossom a new Japan Town...
the Nihonmachi.

It will have the old as well as the new...
the flavor of the past as well as the
spirit of the modern—restored homes
and businesses, new town houses
and apartments and shops and malls.

This unique renewal of an entire
community would not be possible
without neighborhood participation...
a fruitful partnership between the
Nihonmachi Community Development
Corporation, representing the resi-
dents and property owners, and the
San Francisco Redevelopment Agency.

The Nihonmachi will be the newest and
the richest of so many contributions
of the Japanese-American community
to the City of St. Francis.



M. Justin Herman
Executive Director,
San Francisco
Redevelopment Agency



Masao Ashizawa
President,
Nihonmachi Community
Development Corporation

